

Mirror sports



DAVE PETTINATO (11) runs around blocking provided by John Waller (10) and John Muta (73). Chargers won game. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

On the 50-yard line

By JOHN WILCHA

The 36th NBA season opened this past Friday, two weeks later than last year's start. The champion won't be crowned until June.

Most local fans follow the Knicks or 76ers because they are local teams or the Celtics, because everybody loves a winner and the Celtics win more than they lose.

The Knicks should finish with a winning season, but they will end up just over .500. The Knicks had one of the top backcourts in the NBA last season. But contrast problems with the Williams broke up that combination.

Michael Ray Richardson will have added pressure now. The Knicks got Maurice Lucas in the trade for Williams.

Lucas hasn't shown any talent since his halcyon days with the Portland Trail Blazers. Center Cartwright and forward Sly Williams will have to be more consistent if the Knicks want to win the toughest division in basketball.

This could be the 76ers' year, but isn't it every year? The Sixers of Dr. J. have Caldwell and Bobby Jones. No checks, Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins, Lionel Hollins and Steve Mix.

The Sixers have a new owner in diet millionaire Harold Katz and he realizes the Sixers' front line is aging. Irving and C. Jones are 31. Mix is 33 and Bobby Jones is 30.

But just when the Sixers' stars are ready to retire, starting in '83, the Sixers have five first-round draft picks available over a two-year period. Look for the Sixers to win the Atlantic Division and to, probably, choke in the playoffs.

The Celtics will try to repeat themselves and win the NBA championship. The last team to win back-to-back championships were the 1968 and 1969 Celtics.

Larry Bird, Cornell West, Maxwell, and Robert Parish form a formidable front line. The question mark is at the guard spot. Chris Ford, who's known for his three-point shot and can Tiny Archibald, at age 33, still lead the Celtics back break? The Celtics could have used Danny Ainge who is back in Utah after his court battle with baseball's Toronto Blue Jays.

Other teams that will win their share of games and make the playoffs are Chicago, Milwaukee, San Antonio, Houston and Los Angeles.

Teams you don't care if you watch will be Washington, Cleveland, Dallas, and San Diego.

The New Jersey Nets' Mike O'Koren, who has family in the area, vacationed a week at Elk Lake this past summer. He did some shopping in Carbondale while in the area.

Clubs to hear on national TV recently that Dan Schulz named his dog Conka after Larry Conka. My dog's name is Bery. He even has 66 painted on the sides of his doghouse. Who shows class, coach?

In case you didn't know it Gary Petacovich is an Eagles fan.

A former Penn State football player who transferred to Temple, was arrested in a downtown Cincinnati department store before the Temple-Cincinnati game a few Saturdays ago.

Leo McClelland was picked up for allegedly stealing a man's \$450 overcoat.

The St. Louis Cardinals' kick returner is called Stump Mitchell. He does not resent the nickname, possibly, because his name is Lyovonia Albert Mitchell.

One-time Phillies catcher Bob Uecker has a record hard for any baseball player to beat. He has appeared on the "Tonight Show" 61 times.

Add Joe Ambrose, Sr., of Waymart, on the list of bowlers with a 300 game. Joe was the first person ever to bowl a perfect game at Wallenpaupack Lanes, Hawley.

In 1918, Pitt, coached by legendary Pop Warner, faced Georgia Tech, coached by legendary John Heisman, the man the trophy is named after.

At halftime at Pittsburgh's Forbes Field, the teams retired to locker rooms separated only by issue thin walls.

Heisman, famous for his inspirational

Warner instructed his players to put their cars against the wall and listen. When Heisman finished, Warner told his team, "OK, boys, you heard that. Go get 'em!"

Ross Diley proud of his Dodgers who beat up on the Yankees for the World Series.

The Picks
Philadelphia — 21
St. Louis — 14

The Cardinals have been beating the good teams and losing for the bad teams, but this Sunday the good team will be the Cardinals and the Cardinals won't pull off an upset.

Green Bay — 10
New York Giants — 24

Second time these two teams played this year. Green Bay won first one, but the Giants are an improved team this time around.

Pittsburgh — 28
Seattle — 3

Steelers in an easy win.

Penn State — 28
N. Carolina St. — 14

This game is in North Carolina, but it doesn't matter.

Pitt — 35
Rutgers — 7

Another easy win for a team from the City of Pittsburgh.

Carbondale Area — 20
Homestead — 13

Should be a real barn burner. Two teams who have had some exciting games over the years.

Lakeland — 32
Mid-Valley — 6

Chiefs score big.

Western Wayne — 21
Bishop O'Hara — 4

The Wildcats close the season with a win.

Chargers blank O'Hara Saturday afternoon

The Carbondale Area Chargers upped their Suburban Conference record to 6-2 with a 14-0 win over Bishop O'Hara Saturday at Carbondale.

Dave Pettinato went over the 1,000-yard mark during Saturday's game. For the afternoon he ran the ball 96 yards on 32 carries. His total for the season stands at 1,005 yards.

Neither team scored in the first quarter. Pettinato got the Chargers on the scoreboard in the second quarter when he carried the ball over from the one and then added the extra point via a kick.

That gave the home team a 7-0 lead which they took into the lockerrooms at halftime. Coming back out for the third quarter,

neither team scored again.

But the fourth and final period saw the Chargers put together a 63-yard, eight-play drive which John Waller capped with a 23-yard run.

This time the kick failed, but that was all the scoring the Chargers needed to defeat the O'Hara team.

Chargers' next game is Friday night at Homestead who follow Chargers in Suburban standings with 4-4 league record.

Chargers have outscored opponents this season 162-84. League-leading Lackawanna Trail has scored 161 points and co-leader Susquehanna has scored 265.

Chargers' Football Club treats both home and away team after each game. O'Hara coaches decided against treats after game.

Don Hickey, a MIRROR Player of the Week, Pete Gillette was runner-up.

Lake Polito and Steve Galliano helped out with the chains. Doctors Morris and Coleman on the Charger sideline.

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Carbondale Mirror Charger Player of the Week Dan Hickey

5-foot-11, 210 pounds senior tackle

Defensive Effort

He will receive a case of soda from Cominsky Beer and Soda, 16 River St., Carbondale, sponsor of this weekly MIRROR feature.



Wildcats lose 43-8

The Western Wayne Wildcats lost to Susquehanna 43-8 Saturday at Varden.

The Wildcats could only muster a final period touchdown off the Suburban Conference co-leaders in a game which saw Susquehanna score all but two of its points in the first quarter.

The loss dropped Western Wayne's conference record to 4-4 this season.

The Wildcats scored in the final period when Bob Lambert carried the ball over from the one-yard line. Doug Moyle added the extra two points on a run.

Western Wayne had 97 yards in the air Saturday afternoon to tie eight for Susquehanna.

Wildcats travel to Bishop O'Hara for Saturday afternoon game this week.

Lakeland Chiefs win eighth straight game

The Lakeland Chiefs won their eighth straight game this season, keeping their undefeated record intact, by downing Scranton Prep 28-21 Saturday night at Dummer.

The Big Eleven-leading Chiefs did not have an easy night of it as Prep scored first on that Halloween night.

Prep drew first blood when Kalinowski took in a pass from Gallis and scored a 14-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

Lakeland came right back in the period, scoring when Keith Schweppenhauer ran the ball 15 yards for the score, yard TD.

Following the halftime intermission, Lakeland, holding a 21-14 margin, added another TD when Schweppenhauer tossed to Wiskey who crossed the goal line to complete a 38-yard score.

Domonski added the extra point and the Chiefs led 28-14.

Prep came back in the final period to score one more time on a 22-yard pass play from Gallis to Veno.

Prep put first-downed Lakeland Saturday night, 12-7, but the Chiefs held the rushing margin 131-93. Prep topped the Chiefs in the air 271-111.

But Lakeland remains on top of the Big Eleven with an 8-0 record. The Chiefs have scored 163 points, while their opponents have scored 42 (with Prep scoring half of that).

The Chiefs next take on Mid-Valley at the Lakeland home field Saturday afternoon.

That big price brings out many trappers who only do it a few weeks a year for the money — or the anticipated big money — he explained.

Since the red fox is, he considers, the smartest animal in North America, they are not easy to trap.

And trappers who don't take the proper precautions in trapping the animal may actually educate the fox.

Those proper precautions include baiting

the trap in a tree back solution to remove the human scent and to put on a natural scent.

Then the trap has to be waxed to seal the metal to keep it from oxidizing which the fox can smell and knows to stay away from.

And finally, the trap has to be aired for two weeks.

All the time the trap is handled with rubber gloves.

A real science

Out in the woods, the precautions continue.

The rubber gloves stay on.

The ground around the trap has to be level. The trap can't rock. The area has to be camouflaged.

Walls explained that he can't touch his knees to the ground or brush against the surrounding landscape. The fox owns a keen sense of smell.

In other words: to catch a fox is a real accomplishment.

The fox is not the only animal Walls traps. He also goes for racoon, muskrat, beaver, and mink.

Walls told the MIRROR that there are mink in the area. Few people see them because they are elusive, nocturnal animals. Yet they live as close as Salem Mountains.

"It's really a necessity and not as cruel as people make it out to be," Walls said.

"They're there to live a smaller and smaller, he explained and because of this, they're dying senselessly — often from diseases.

"There's more to Walls' story. If you want to hear the rest, he'll be glad to tell it to tell of the "only way a person can appreciate the outdoors."

Beavers are dangerous

Beaver-trapping is dangerous, Walls said.

The beaver trapping season is mid-February to mid-March and that time of year has its hazards. Those thaws are what

make trapping beavers dangerous.

Walls related a story about the time he had beaver traps on an island. One night it rained and there was water on top of the ice he had been walking across.

Walking through the water on top of the two weeks.

Walls suddenly found himself chest-deep in water. He was able to pull himself out.

Following the capture of the animals, Walls skins them, fleshes them, and puts their pelts on a wire stretcher. He then sells them to area buyers.

Now before anyone thinks he is making money hands over fists, Walls told the MIRROR, "If you figure your time, you'll probably make a very low hourly wage."

Offers to speak

There's a lot of anti-trapping sentiment around, Walls noted, so a couple of years ago, he began giving trapping speeches.

Among the groups he has spoken to over the years are: Kiwanis Club, school groups, and the Carbondale News Club.

While they may not agree with him when he starts, he feels that, at least, he gets to present his side.

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